

COLLEGE DEBATE AND DISCOURSE PROGRAM AT VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

supported by Braver Angels, ACTA, BRIDGE USA and a grant from the John Templeton Foundation

The evolution of the program

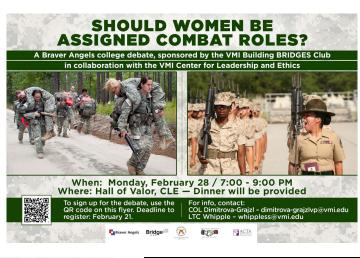
David Blankenhorn, founder of Braver Angels, invited by CLE to speak at VMI in 2017.

CLE hosted four concurrent Braver Angels debates in the Leadership conference in 2021.

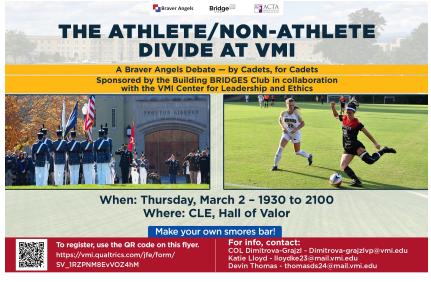
Collaboration between Building BRIDGEs Club and CLE (starting in 2021); invitation to be a community of practice for the Templeton Project in Fall 2021.

Since then, 5 Post-wide debates (one of which intercollegiate), lunch debates, introductory training about Braver Angels debates.











SHOULD K-12 SCHOOLS BAN

CONTROVERSIAL BOOKS?

A Braver Angels Intercollegiate Debate

SPONSORED BY THE VMI BUILDING BRIDGES CLUB, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS Hosted at VMI and open to students, faculty, and staff at Washington and Lee University, Mountain Gateway Community College, and Southern Virginia University.

When: November 28 — 7:00-9:00 PM Where: Hall of Valor, Marshall Hall, VMI

Dessert will be provided

For more information, contact:

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To register:

use the QR code on this flyer







BridgeUSA

• Our goals

- Create a brave space for meaningful and genuine conversations on important and sometimes challenging topics
- Enhance our students' listening skills
 - Good leaders are also good listeners
- Teach our students to have empathy toward others
- Demonstrate civil discourse techniques



Building a community of practice:

- three faculty/staff fellows
- four cadet fellows
- training
- new initiatives



- "This type of debate opens them up to the possibility that people who disagree with them are not adversaries, they're just interesting human beings who have a different point of view."
- "VMI has become a vibrant, self-sustaining community of practice in our program, and its initiative in introducing Braver Angels debates and civil discourse to other colleges in the surrounding area is exemplary for the nation."
 - Doug Sprei, ACTA's VP of Campus Partnerships and Director of the College Debates and Discourse Alliance